

Evening Sermon Outline – October 17, 2021

“Help!” Psalm 121

A Song of Ascents. A Psalm of Degrees (KJV) or of Steps! It is a Psalm for the climb. Up a mountain! Up to Jerusalem, up to God!

It is a spiritual, moral mountain we are called to climb, it is not EASY, but it is worth every step! Paul spoke about this -

¹² Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:12-14

*From prayer that asks that I may be
Sheltered from winds that beat on Thee,
From fearing when I should aspire,
From faltering when I should climb higher,
From silken self, O captain, free
Thy soldier who would follow Thee.
From subtle love of softening things,
From easy choices, weakenings,
Not thus are spirits fortified,
Not this way went the Crucified,
From all that dims Thy Calvary,
O Lamb of God, deliver me.
Give me the love that leads the way,
The faith that nothing can dismay,
The hope no disappointments tire,
The passion that will burn like fire.
Let me not sink to be a clod:
Make me Thy fuel, O Flame of God.
– Amy Carmichael*

I. *First step, where our eyes should be -*

1 I will lift up my eyes to the hills— Psalm 121:1 A (NKJV)

1. *The high calling of God is –*

A. *The standard required by God’s Word –*

¹⁶ All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NKJV)

B. *Our standard / example of keeping God’s Word is Jesus Christ –*

⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Philippians 2:5–8 (NKJV)

C. *Not only is Christ our standard, but even His cross ...*

²³ Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. Luke 9:23 (NKJV)

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son,
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

2. *Christ, His Word, Keeping His Law these are the High hills we set our sight on –*

A. Yet this climb is impossible for us without Help –

¹⁰ As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one;

¹¹ There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after od.

¹² They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.”

Romans 3:10–12 (NKJV)

B. We all fall short of God’s glory ...

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, Romans 3:23

(NKJV) We have MISSED the mark! Knowing the Height of the call, means knowing your NEED for help!

“Run, John, run! The law commands,
but gives me neither feet nor hands
Far better news, the Gospel brings
It bids me, fly, and gives me wings!”
John Bunyan

II. Second step, know where your Help comes from -
From whence comes my help? ² My help comes from the LORD,
Who made heaven and earth. Psalm 121:1 B -2 (NKJV)

1. The tendency of our feet is to slide, our tendency is to fall –

¹⁸ If I say, “My foot slips,” Your mercy, O LORD, will hold me up. Psalm 94:18

¹⁶ For a righteous *man* may fall seven times and rise again, But the wicked shall fall by calamity. Proverbs 24:16

2. Yet, the LORD’s help, helps even our feet, He enables us for the spiritual climb –

³ He will not allow your foot to be moved; Psalm 121:3 A (NKJV)

¹⁷ Though the fig tree may not blossom, Nor fruit be on the vines;
Though the labor of the olive may fail, And the fields yield no food;
Though the flock may be cut off from the fold, And there be no herd in the stalls— ¹⁸ Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. ¹⁹ The LORD God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer’s feet, And He will make me walk on my high hills.
Habakkuk 3:17–19 (NKJV)

III. Know why our LORD’s help is so valuable -

1. He provides the foot stability we need – Psalm 121:3 A ↑

2. He does not sleep –

³ ... He who keeps you will not slumber. ⁴ Behold, He who keeps Israel Shall neither slumber nor sleep. Psalm 121:3 B - 4

3. He is our personal, powerful Keeper -

A. He is our Shade from the sun, heat –

⁵ The LORD is your keeper; The LORD is your shade at your right hand. ⁶ The sun shall not strike you by day, Psalm 121:5-6 A

B. He is our protection from night dangers –
Nor the moon by night. Psalm 121:6 B (NKJV)

C. He is our protection from all evil –

⁷ The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; Psalm 121:7 A (NKJV)

¹³ And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. Matthew 6:13 (NKJV)

D. Especially soul-destroying evil – He shall preserve your soul.
Psalm 121:7 B (NKJV)

E. Everlastingly, He always saves us –

⁸ The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore. Psalm 121 (NKJV)

²⁴ But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. ²⁵ Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. ²⁶ For such a High Priest was fitting for us, *who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;* ²⁷ who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people’s, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. ²⁸ For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, *appoints* the Son who has been perfected forever. Hebrews 7:24–28 (NKJV)

See also Isaiah 40:31

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